

OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE SERVICE.

1. Nature of Community Centres.

A Community Centre is visualised as being, on the one hand, an association of persons organised to serve the community in which they live by giving form, direction, purpose and expression to its communal life and activities, and, on the other hand, the place or building in which such service is centralised. Membership will be open to all races and colours but each particular Centre will derive its character from the constitution of the community it is established to serve. A cardinal aspect of its policy will be a balanced, full, all-round programme. This balance will be maintained by devoting attention to the spiritual, social, intellectual and physical well-being and development of the community, each being given its proper emphasis. Men and women, young people and children will all be catered for. The leadership of the Centre will have a Christian emphasis. The Centre will place in the forefront of its programme the development of ideals of unselfish service, co-operation and brotherhood and qualities of leadership in its members.

2. Programme of Community Centres.

The programme will be flexible and carefully planned so as to fit the particular needs of the local community. The following will be the general line followed, namely :-

- (1) Physical Training: A comprehensive outdoor and indoor recreational programme. Playing fields, gymnasiums and swimming pools shall be utilised by both sexes and all ages to develop physical fitness through the provision of pleasurable physical activities.
- (2) Education: The supplementing of existing educational facilities by providing Night Schools, Adult, and Technical classes, and generally to prepare members of the Community for rendering more efficient service in industry and community.
- (3) Religion: To provide an inter-denominational programme of Bible Classes, Study Groups and Youth Organisations, fostering such societies as the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., the International Society of Christian Endeavour, Knights of de Molay, etc. Annual and other conferences of Christian youth to be promoted.
- (4) Youth and Young People's Organisations: Assisting in the furtherance and development of Scouting and Wayfaring, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Boys' Brigades, etc., and in the provision of camping sites and other facilities within and without the Community Centre buildings.

3. Membership.

Membership is to be of two kinds, Active (voting) and Associate (non-voting).

Active membership will be open to those who desire to give active support to the ideals and objects of the movement and who accept the principle that the leadership of the movement shall have a Christian emphasis. (The draft Constitution prepared by Dr. R. Phillips' Committee proposes that active membership should be open to any person who "shall undertake sincerely to allow the ideals of brotherhood, co-operation and unselfish service to deminate his/her life").

Associate membership with restricted privileges will be open to junior members under the age of 18 years and to persons not ready to subscribe to the undertakings required from active members.

4. Leadership.

The Centre will seek responsible leaders in a voluntary capacity, European and Non-European, from within and from without the local community, and also full-time, paid leaders who have been trained for the purpose through the Jan H. Hofmeyr School of Social Work or a similar institution. The Christian quality of leadership will be emphasised and elective principles will be given proper recognition. The trained full-time worker will have a status consistent with the importance and value of the services such workers can render.

5. Control.

Control will be exercised through General Meetings of Active Members and an Executive Committee responsible to such General Meetings. *Under N. Comm. supervision*

The Executive Committee will be an elective body with a proportion of co-opted or nominated persons. The National Council of Community Centres might have the right to nominate or to require the co-option of representative persons. Organisations working within the Centre, such as Y.M.C.A., Wayfarers, Pathfinders, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, should have representation. The principle should be accepted that control rests with those who assume responsibility.

6. Co-operation.

The Centre will not be exclusive, self-centred or racial in its outlook. It will seek the co-operation of the Churches and allbodies or organisations promoting the welfare and uplift of the community. Where possible it will assist them by providing facilities for the carrying on of their work, e.g. the use of the Centres buildings for meetings or club work.

7. Relationship to Y.M.C.A.

The Centre recognises the Y.M.C.A. as the body best suited to provide the Christian leadership it desires because the Y.M.C.A. represents an international and interdenominational movement and as such can best unite Christians of different communions in the service which they can render to and through the Centre. The Centre, therefore, pledges itself

to assist the National Council of Y.M.C.A.s in every way to establish and maintain a live and strong local Association within the Centre.

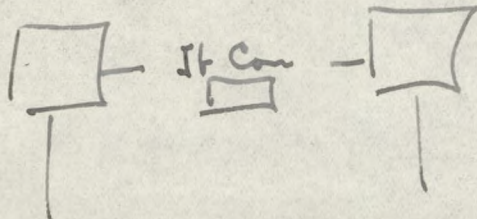
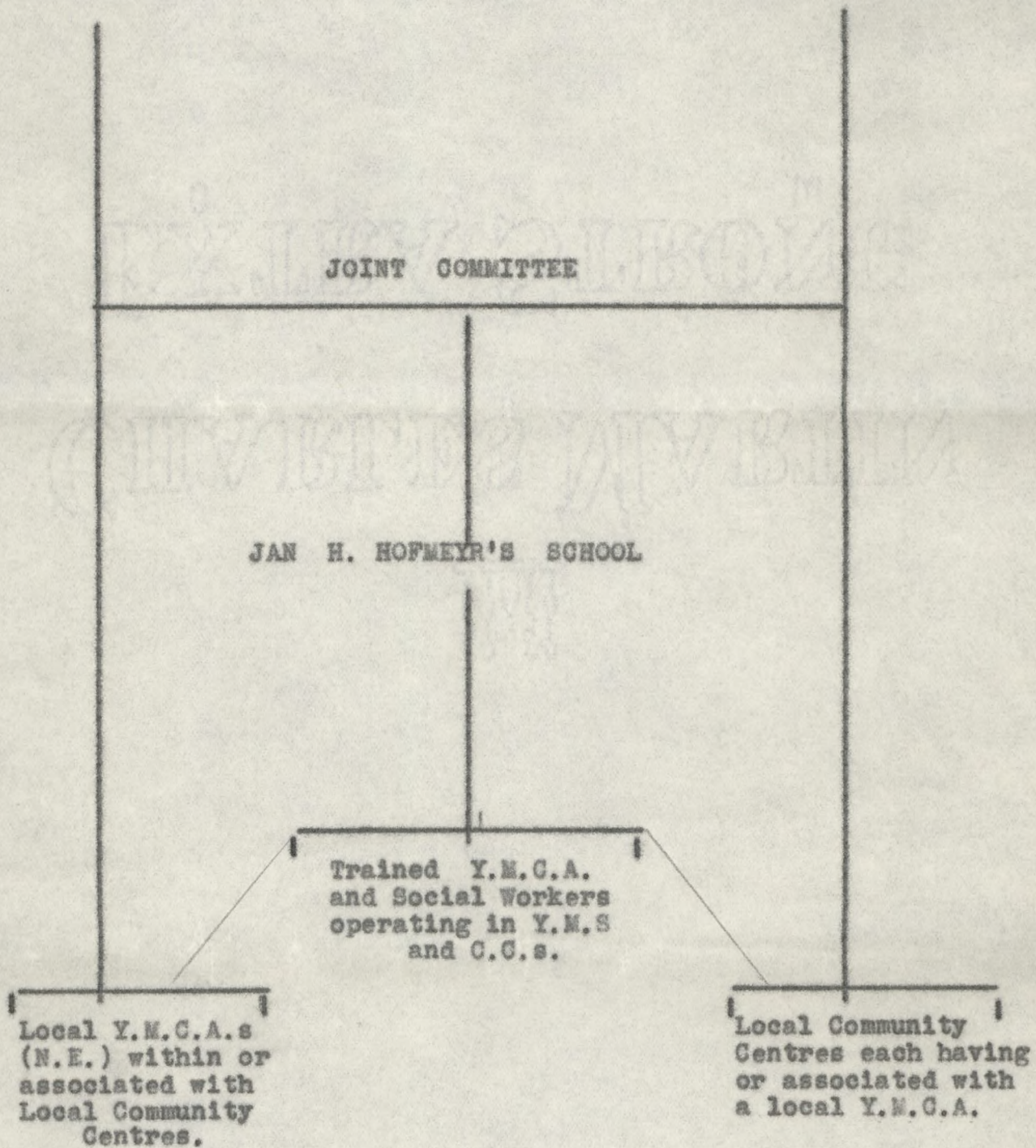
8. Relationship to National Body.

The Centre will join with other Centres to constitute a National Council of Community Centres.

DIAGRAMMATIC REPRESENTATION OF RELATIONSHIP
OF Y.M.C.A.s TO COMMUNITY CENTRES.

Y.M.C.A.
NATIONAL
COUNCIL.

COMMUNITY CENTRES
NATIONAL COUNCIL.



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